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**From:** Lisichenko, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LISICHENKO, PETER]  
**Sent:** 1/9/2019 7:22:13 PM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) [christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

-Pete

Peter Lisichenko  
U.S. EPA Region 2  
347-276-6251 (cell/text)

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**From:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** Lisichenko, Peter <lisichenko.peter@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: TCC follow-up

Pete, by the end of the day I guess. When do you leave the site normally?

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**From:** Lisichenko, Peter [mailto:lisichenko.peter@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: TCC follow-up

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Chris,  
When do you need this by?

\*\*\*Sent from a mobile device\*\*\*

Peter Lisichenko  
On-Scene Coordinator  
Region 2 USEPA  
347-276-6251

On Jan 9, 2019, at 12:54 PM, LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov> wrote:

Peter,

FYI- below is the bullet responses we gave to buffalo news and the follow-up questions they had. I'm not sure how much detail I really want to get into but I'll take a shot at a response and get it to you. Thanks for your help.

Chris

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 09, 2019 11:53 AM

**To:** Ryan, Michael (DEC) <[michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov](mailto:michael.ryan@dec.ny.gov)>; LaLone, Christopher (DEC) <[christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:christopher.lalone@dec.ny.gov)>; Mahar, Sean C (DEC) <[Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Sean.Mahar@dec.ny.gov)>; Brand, Martin (DEC) <[martin.brand@dec.ny.gov](mailto:martin.brand@dec.ny.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: TCC follow-up

TJ Pignataro, Buff News

DEADLINE: COB

FOLLOW UPS

Are there any further descriptive details you can provide on background for how:

- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

Upon entering the facility, it was identified that a large three-million gallon tank contained approximately 900,000 gallons of waste ammonia solution resulting from the coking process. This material was highly concentrated and posed a significant threat if not dealt with. The on-site ammonia still, which was powered by the boiler house, was used to treat and properly dispose of this material. On December 19, 2018, the last of this material was transferred to the ammonia still receiving tank for treatment. The treatment of the material was completed on December 26, 2018.

On December 26, 2018, the shuttering of the boiler house began with turning off the gas supply. The controlled shutdown process was conducted slowly over several days to ensure that it was done safely and properly, including the depressurization and draining of vessels and pipes within the boiler house. Industrial gas service to the boiler house has been terminated by the utility company and the lines have been purged. Water service to the boiler house, including domestic and river source, has also been turned off. With the closure of the boiler, the ammonia still was subsequently taken off-line and the treatment lines were purged. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. All secondary containment water, resulting from snow and rain accumulation, will be filtered and pumped into the tank for treatment prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.

- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week. The process will first include the gross-decontamination of the floor and sidewalls of the "moat" area and of the processing equipment within the containment walls. The actual removal of the containment walls and floors will not be completed until

all tanks and vessels area emptied. Until that time, water generated from rain and snowmelt will be captured in the baker style tank.

- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant to minimize threats from fires and to minimize surface runoff resulting from burst water lines. Utilities continued to be maintained at specific locations that serve to aid the response effort including the office space and guard house. Emergency services has been updated on changes in the facilities conditions and updates to the Contingency Plan is forthcoming.

I guess I'm looking for a little bit more of a play-by-play as to how, technically, these things are accomplished, and what, if any, challenges arise in the process thereof.

If these are questions more suited to the EPA itself, LMK.

Thanks again!

-tj.

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**From:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 1:05:15 PM  
**To:** Pignataro, Todd  
**Subject:** TCC follow-up

TJ, a few updates below. Hope this is helpful. Call me if you want to discuss

ER

**STATEMENT FOR ATTRIBUTION TO MARTIN BRAND, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
REMEDICATION AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT, NYS DEC**

Across the state, DEC optimizes strategies based on lessons learned from successful cleanup projects, including similarly contaminated industrial sites like Morgan Materials and the Bethlehem Steel site. New York's responsible and aggressive approach has resulted in hundreds of successful cleanups strategically designed to safeguard communities from environmental harm, provide flexibility for future redevelopment, and meet the needs of local planning and development agencies. New York State is on the job at this site and committed to a comprehensive cleanup that the Tonawanda community deserves.

After the EPA's work to stabilize and secure the site is complete, a comprehensive investigation is necessary to understand the full nature and extent of contamination. DEC and EPA will conduct a full analysis of cleanup strategies, which will inform the selection of an appropriate cleanup action(s) to prepare the property for future re-use.

## ON BACKGROUND

- EPA, contractors, and site security remain working despite federal government shutdown.
- EPA is working on updating the contingency plan to account for the changes to the site.
- The boiler was shut down on Dec. 26, 2018, and the ammonia still is no longer in operation. A baker style tank (mobile tank system) with a weir is on-site and will receive site water now that the boiler is shut down. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been in contact with the local POTW about batch discharges from this tank.
- Decontamination and removal of the moat secondary containment is scheduled to begin this week.
- DEC is not aware of any acute issues that are an imminent threat to public health or the environment. The moat is not an acute issue.
- Utilities (electricity, water and natural gas) have been shut off for the majority of the plant.

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**From:** Pignataro, Todd [<mailto:TPignataro@buffnews.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 7, 2019 10:14 AM  
**To:** Ringewald, Erica R (DEC) <[Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Erica.Ringewald@dec.ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** TCC follow-up

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Hi Erica,

I hope your family's doing better health-wise this week. It sounds like some nasty stuff is going around.

I'm back on the TCC beat again this week.

If possible, I'm hoping for a general update as to what's been going on at the site since early to mid December.

From some drone images our photographers obtained last week, it appears as though some work has been done at or around those open moat areas that were of original concern to the EPA investigator in October.

Have those issues of concerns at the moats been ameliorated? If yes, how was that accomplished?

What other acute issues remain? How long might it take for them to be rendered non-threatening to public health or the environment?

What are the next steps in the process, and is there a general timeline as to what goals are set for 2019?

Thanks!

Best,

-tj.

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